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Mobile services WARC

The World Administrative Radio Conference for the mobile services (WARC-MOB-83), which opened on 28 February 1983 at the Centre international de conférences de Genève (CICG) completed its work on 18 March 1983.

Five hundred delegates from 89 countries participated in this Conference, together with observers for the following organizations: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Arab Telecommunication Union (ATU), Agency for the Safety of Air Navigation in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Maritime Radio Association (CIRM), International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), European Space Agency (ESA).

1. Structure of the Conference

The Conference elected Captain V. R. Y. Winkelman (Netherlands) Chairman of the Conference, Messrs. N. Bouhired (Algeria), H. Vergara (Argentina), Y. Lui (China), Rear-Admiral F. Schubert (United States) and Mr. A. Badalov (USSR) were elected Vice-Chairmen.

The Conference comprised six Committees and two Working Groups of the Plenary Meeting:

□ Committee 1 Steering Committee

Chairman:

the Chairman of the Conference

Vice-Chairmen:

the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference

Members:

the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees and the two Working Groups

Terms of reference:

To co-ordinate the work of the Committees, fix the timetable of meetings, etc.

□ Committee 2 Credentials Committee

Chairman:

Mr. G. Mutti (Zambia)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. J. Székely (Hungary)

Terms of reference:

To verify the credentials of delegations and to report on its conclusions to the

Plenary Meeting within the time specified by the latter (No. 369 of the International Telecommunication Convention, Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973).

□ Committee 3 Budget Control Committee

Chairman:

Mr. S. Ghandourah (Saudi Arabia)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. J. G. De Matos (Angola)

Terms of reference:

To determine the organization and the facilities available to the delegates and to examine and approve the accounts of expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the Conference (No. 442 of the International Telecommunication Convention, Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973).

□ Committee 4 Frequency and Regulatory Committee

Chairman:

Mr. R. Menon (Malaysia)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. K. Björnsjö (Sweden)

Terms of reference:

To consider the proposals concerning *frequency and related regulatory matters* for the relevant articles and appendix of the Radio Regulations.

Insofar as *frequency and related regulatory matters* are concerned, to review and take appropriate action, as necessary, on the relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of the World Administrative Radio Conference, Geneva, 1979 (WARC-79).

□ Committee 5 Operational and Administrative Committee

Chairman:

Mr. E. Ducharme (Canada)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. G. Yao (Ivory Coast)

Terms of reference:

To consider proposals concerning *operational and related administrative matters* for the relevant articles of the Radio Regulations relating to distress and

safety and the selective calling procedure in the maritime mobile service.

Insofar as *operational and related administrative matters* are concerned, to review and take appropriate action, as necessary, on the relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of WARC-79.

□ Committee 6 Editorial Committee

Chairman:

Mr. P. Abouharham (France)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. A. Marshall (United Kingdom)

Mr. F. Molina Negro (Spain)

Terms of reference:

To perfect the form of the Final Acts of the Conference without altering the sense (No. 527 of the International Telecommunication Convention, Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973).

□ Technical Working Group (PL-A)

Chairman:

Mr. H. Götze (German Democratic Republic)

Terms of reference:

To consider proposals concerning *technical matters* related to the various agenda items and in particular to review and take appropriate action, as necessary, on the relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of WARC-79.

□ Special Working Group

Issues concerning Region 1 (Europe) (PL-B)

Chairman:

Mr. K. Olms (Federal Republic of Germany)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. Z. Kupczyk (Poland)

Terms of reference:

To review and take appropriate action, as necessary, on the relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of WARC-79 which directly concern Region 1.

2. Results of the Conference

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Conference adopted the following decisions after three weeks of deliberations:

2.1 Distress and safety at sea

With regard to the Future Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (FGMDSS) now being developed by the International Maritime Organization for implementation in the 1990s, the Conference took the necessary measures in connection with radiocommunications.

To this end, it inserted in the Radio Regulations provisions for the use of certain frequencies required by this new system. It thus revised Article 8 of the Regulations (Allocation of frequency bands) and considerably amended Chapter IX of the Regulations concerning distress and safety calls. The number of available frequencies was increased and provision was made for their world-wide use.

The Conference also inserted in Chapter IX a section on the narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy system for transmission of navigational and meteorological warnings and urgent information to ships (NAVTEX).

It further added to the definitions in Chapter I of the Regulations the definition of a satellite emergency position-indicating radiobeacon: an earth station in the mobile-satellite service the emissions of which are intended to facilitate search and rescue operations.

It also reviewed Appendix 37 to the Radio Regulations concerning the technical characteristics of emergency position-indicating radiobeacons operating on the carrier frequency 2182 kHz and added an appendix for radiobeacons operating on the carrier frequencies 121.5 and 243 MHz.

The Conference did not consider it appropriate to introduce in the Radio Regulations at this time detailed regulatory and operational provisions pertaining to the system. This is why it adopted a number of Resolutions and Recommendations to serve as a basis for the orderly testing and evaluation of the new system, on the understanding that the responsibility for its further development and for the determination of its operational characteristics will rest with the IMO.

These Resolutions and Recommendations include:

Resolution COM4/1 relating to the use of the band 2170-2194 kHz (further study of its use)

Resolution COM4/2 relating to a radio-telephone frequency in the 8 MHz band for exclusive use for distress and safety traffic in the FGMDSS (study for WARC-MOB-87, see section 2.5)

Resolution COM4/3 relating to the implementation of the frequency 156.525 MHz for distress and safety digital selective calling in the maritime mobile service

Resolution COM4/4 relating to provisional procedures applicable to stations



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General view of the Conference Hall

transmitting navigational and meteorological warnings and urgent information to ships on the frequency 518 kHz using NAVTEX

Resolution COM4/5 relating to the date of entry into force on the 10 kHz guardband for the frequency 500 kHz in the mobile service (distress and calling) (not before 1 January 1990)

Resolution COM5/2 relating to the procedure for identifying and announcing the position of ships and aircraft of States not parties to an armed conflict

Resolution COM5/3 relating to the development of operational provisions for the FGMDSS and to their introduction into the Radio Regulations (see section 2.5)

Resolution COM5/4 relating to the selection of coast stations to assure watch-keeping responsibilities on certain frequencies in connection with the implementation of the FGMDSS

Resolution COM4/8 on protection of the band 406-406.1 MHz allocated to the mobile-satellite service

Revised Resolution 200 of the Radio Regulations relating to the class of emission to be used for distress and safety purposes on the carrier frequency 2182 kHz

Revised Resolution 310 of the Radio Regulations relating to frequency provisions for development and future implementation of ship movement

telemetry, telecommand and data exchange systems

Recommendation COM5/1 relating to shore-ship digital selective calls in the 500 kHz band (further study by the CCIR)

Recommendation COM5/3 relating to the use of radar transponders in survival craft for facilitating search and rescue operations at sea (further study by the CCIR)

Recommendation COM5/4 relating to the use of a priority indicator signal for alerting ships to send overdue position reports and for other ships to report sightings

Revised Recommendation 201 of the Radio Regulations relating to distress, urgency and safety traffic (further study by the IMO and the CCIR)

Revised Recommendation 604 of the Radio Regulations relating to the future use and characteristics of emergency position-indicating radiobeacons (further study by the IMO and the CCIR).

2.2 Frequencies

With regard to frequencies for the mobile services, in addition to the distress and safety frequencies, the Conference revised Article 8 of the Radio Regulations and Chapter XI on the maritime mobile service and the maritime-satellite mobile service. This revision relates *inter alia* to the digital selective calling

systems.¹ It also revised the following appendices to the Radio Regulations:

Appendix 16: Channelling of the maritime mobile radiotelephone bands between 4000 kHz and 23 000 kHz

Appendix 18: Table of transmitting frequencies in the band 156–174 MHz for stations in the maritime mobile service

Appendix 31: Table of frequencies to be used in the bands between 4 MHz and 27.5 MHz allocated exclusively to the maritime mobile service

Appendix 33: Channelling of the maritime mobile bands between 4000 kHz and 27 500 kHz used for narrow-band direct-printing telegraphy and data transmission.

The Conference also adopted:

Resolution COM4/6 relating to a general review of the HF bands allocated on an exclusive or shared basis to the maritime mobile service by the World Administrative Radio Conference for the mobile services planned for 1987 (further study by the CCIR and administrations)

Resolution COM4/7 relating to the improved use of the international monitoring system in applying decisions of administrative radio conferences

Recommendation COM5/2 relating to the use of ship earth stations within harbours and other waters under national jurisdiction.

2.3 Identities in the maritime mobile service

The conference reviewed and supplemented Appendix 43 to the Radio Regulations concerning maritime mobile service identities. It will be remembered that this system provides for a 3-digit prefix consisting of 3 numbers. On this basis, each ship station and coast station is provided with a unique 9-digit identity integrated in a new numbering scheme associated with the FGMDSS. The purpose of this identity is not only to permit international calling of ship stations on the switched public telephone network and the telex network; it will also be useful for identifying ships in commercial transactions.

This revision means altering the designated "nationality identification digit" (NID) assigned to each country or geographical area to "maritime identification digit" (MID). The appendix has now been supplemented by a table giving the maritime identification digits (3-digit prefixes) for all countries and geographical areas. The Conference adopted a Resolution on this subject (COM5/1), relating to the allocation of MIDs and the formation and assignment of identities in the maritime mobile and maritime mobile-satellite services. It invited the administrations of the countries Members of the ITU to follow the guidelines annexed to the Resolution in assigning ship station identities.

2.4 Aeronautical mobile service

Chapter X of the Radio Regulations, hitherto entitled "Aeronautical mobile service", has become "Aeronautical mobile service and aeronautical mobile satellite-service". The chapter was accordingly revised to take into account the introduction of the aeronautical mobile satellite-service.

2.5 Preparations for the 1987 Conference

In its proceedings, the WARC-MOB-83 has taken account of the fact that a further, larger World Administrative Radio Conference for the mobile services would be held in 1987 (WARC-MOB-87).

With regard to the FGMDSS in particular, the Conference, recognizing that appropriate administrative, technical and operational experience of the new system was essential before new rules governing its operation could be embodied in the Radio Regulations, decided that WARC-MOB-87 should be invited to introduce provisions concerning the new system into the Radio Regulations. Until then, during the transition period, it would of course be possible to call upon the FGMDSS in certain cases involving distress and safety, on the understanding that the emergency rules currently applicable in this respect are those contained in the Radio Regulations.

The Conference also invited the ITU Administrative Council to include certain questions in the agenda of WARC-MOB-87, relating, for instance, to the use of the HF bands allocated exclusively or partly to the maritime mobile service, the allocation of MIDs and digital selective calling. It also recommended that the revision of the following chapters of the Radio Regulations should be included in the agenda of the 1987 Conference:

Chapter IX

Distress and safety communications

Chapter X

Aeronautical mobile service and aeronautical mobile-satellite service

Chapter XI

Maritime mobile service and maritime mobile-satellite service

Chapter XII

Land mobile service.

2.6 Region 1

With regard to Region 1 (Europe-Africa), the Conference adopted a Resolution relating to the holding, if possible early in 1985, of a Regional Administrative Radio Conference to prepare frequency assignment plans for the maritime mobile service in the bands between 435 kHz and 526.5 kHz and in parts of the band between 1606.5 kHz and 3400 kHz in Region 1 and to plan for the aeronautical radionavigation service in the band 415–435 kHz in Region 1.

The Resolution includes tables of recommended assignable frequencies to be used as a basis for planning.

For Region 1 and the European maritime area in particular, the Conference recommended that a Regional Administrative Conference for the European maritime area should be convened, if possible early in 1985, to revise the provisions of the "Regional arrangement for maritime radiobeacons in the European area of Region 1 (Paris, 1951)" and prepare a plan of maritime radiobeacons in that area in the band 283.5–315 kHz.

With regard to the implementation of the new regulations and decisions, listed above, the Conference took account of the need to allow sufficient time for the amortization of radio equipment currently in service.

The revised regulations, which will form an integral part of the Radio Regulations, will come into force on 15 January 1985 at 00h01 UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time).

¹ Selective calling implies assigning to each ship its own coded signal similar to a telephone number and equipment with an automatic receiver which reacts to the emission of the coded signal by a calling station.